



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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Written Land Development Code Interpretation 2026-003

To: Grant Penland, Planning & Development Services Director
From: Jeremy Lott, Development Project Administrator
Date: May 11, 2026
Re: Interpretation for Warming Shelters

The City periodically reviews the zoning classification of Warming Shelter for persons who cannot otherwise find adequate accommodations or shelter in severe and inclement weather conditions.

Warming Shelter Definition

Warming Shelter are facilities that provide intermittent and short-term shelter for the safety and welfare of unhoused persons during the winter season, including episodes of severe and dangerous weather conditions falling before and after the winter season. Warming centers do not provide continuous, longer-term or year-round shelter services for unhoused persons or families.

Primary Use Classification

If the Warming Shelter is a primary use in a building or on a property, then the zoning code category that best fits is: "Other Community uses, services and facilities, operated by a government or non-profit organization and not permitted elsewhere in the land use table."

Accessory Use

A Warming Shelter is considered an accessory use in a building or on a property according to the following:

- Accessory use in public facilities in all zoning districts.
In facilities operated by non-profit organizations in nonresidential zoning districts, unless expressly precluded by special zoning conditions or other restrictions.
In existing places of religious assembly in residential zones, unless precluded by special zoning conditions. Emergency warming centers are consistent with the community outreach services provided by places of religious assembly.
Use of public and non-profit facilities and places of religious assembly for emergency warming centers as accessory uses shall be consistent with the provisions and standards that govern accessory uses in the Land Development Code and applicable International Building and Fire Code provisions adopted by the City.

Temporary Use

Section 15.04.040.E.6 allows the Planning and Development Services Director to approve temporary uses if it is determined that such uses would not jeopardize the health, safety or general welfare, or be injurious or detrimental to properties adjacent to, or in the vicinity of, the proposed location of the activity. All temporary uses must comply with 15.04.040.D: General standards applicable to all temporary uses and the Review Criteria found in 15.02.070 A.

The tenure of a temporary use shall be 180 days unless the permit is extended upon request by the applicant prior to the expiration of the permit. The permit may be extended if the terms of the permit have not been violated during the initial term.

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Grant Penland
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Grant Penland, Planning & Development Services Director

Date

Cc: Official record of interpretations